

# ST. STEPHEN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

P.O. Box 128  
Leisenring, PA 15455  
Very Reverend Ronald P. Larko, Administrator  
Abbot Leo Schlosser, In Residence  
724-438-6027 or 724-628-6611

## GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

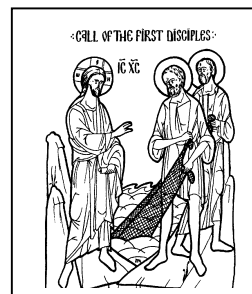
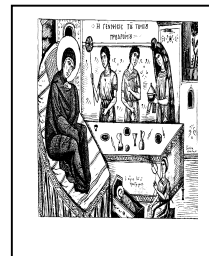
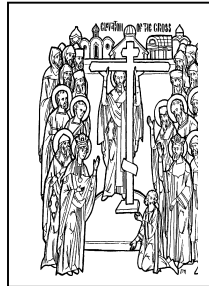
SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS  
September 20, 2020

## GLORY FOREVER!

Gal. 2:16-20  
Mk. 8:34-9:1

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- Sunday, September 20 11:00 a.m. SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS  
For the Parish Family
- Monday, September 21 8:30 a.m. Codratus  
Living Members of the George Prokopiak Family, Req. by Anna Marie Prokopiak
- Tuesday, September 22 Phocas (Bishop - Martyr)  
No Liturgy
- Wednesday, September 23 8:30 a.m. Conception of John the Baptist  
Living Members of the James Prokopiak Family, Req. by Anna Marie Prokopiak
- Thursday, September 24 8:30 a.m. Thecla (Proto - Martyr)  
+Stefan and Agnes Fuchek Family  
Req. by Father Robert Fuchek
- Friday, September 25 8:30 a.m. Euphrosyna (Venerable) (ABSTINENCE REQUIRED)  
+Stefan and Agnes Fuchek Family  
Req. by Father Robert Fuchek
- Saturday, September 26 8:30 a.m. The Passing of John (Evangelist)  
+Stefan and Agnes Fuchek Family  
Req. by Father Robert Fuchek
- Sunday, September 27 11:00 a.m. 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
For the Parish Family



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Amounts for 8-23-2020 will be available in the Bulletin for 9-27-2020.  
Amounts for 9-13-2020 will be available in the Bulletin for 9-27-2020.

PRAYER REQUESTS – Josephine, Ted, Ted, Joe, Mark, Evelyn, Millie, Pam, Stephanie, Steve, Shawn, Miranda, Kinley, Ed, Tim, John, Barry, Dan, Albert, Pamela, Theresa, Janet, Dan, Ellana, John David, Alex, Holt, Michael, Tom, Kendall, Connie, Bobby, Maryann, Irene, Denise, Colin, Ann, Paul, Irene, Betty, Patty, Allen, Andrea, Aaron, Janelle, Ivan, Debbie, Paul, Patty, Al, Mark, Marc, Heath, Mary, Diane, Sheila, Mod, Cecelia, Diane, Carol, Mark M., Flint, Melba, Owen, Anne, Bertha, +Dorothy, +Dolores, Abbot Leo, Father Ron, +Father Joe, all parishioners of St. Stephen, well-being of St. Stephen Church.

‡**CHOOSE LIFE!** For families facing an untimely pregnancy, that they may turn to God for the strength to give birth to a new life, we pray to the Lord.

BEAUTY OF YOUR HOUSE – Taylor Schomer and Michael Krulock.

PRAYER FOR OUR WORLD, COUNTRY, AND PARISH – Lord, Our God, we praise you, we thank you, and we glorify you. We know that you love us, your creation, and that you have empowered us in your image and likeness in those who believe in you and fulfill your commandments. Look upon all your creation and guide your people in this time of crisis and those you have given talents to and a vocation to bring healing in this time of pandemic.

YOUR HELP NEEDED – Please continue to call us at 724-438-6027 to RSVP your attendance at Divine Liturgy on Saturday and Sunday. This procedure will last for a while yet. Also please continue to wear your mask and maintain social distance.

51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ROSARY WALK – Begins at 2:00 p.m. on September 20 at St. George Maronite, Uniontown.

COMMUNION – You must tilt your head back, open your mouth wide, and not touch the spoon while receiving Holy Communion. Wait until you have been given Communion to return to your pew. The last two people in line should wait for the blessing to be given before departing for their pew.

FROM A SERMON BY BLESSED ISAAC OF STELLA, ABBOT

Christ will forgive no sin without the Church

The prerogative of receiving the confession of sin and the power to forgive sin are two things that belong properly to God alone. We must confess our sins to him and look to him for forgiveness. Since only he has the power to forgive sins, it is to him that we must make our confession. But when the Almighty, the Most High, wedded a bride who was weak and of low estate, he made that mad-servant a queen. He took her from her place behind him, at his feet, and enthroned her at his side. She had been born from his side, and therefore he betrothed her to himself. And as all that belongs to the Father belongs also to the Son because by nature they are one, so also the bridegroom gave all he had to the bride and he shared in all that was hers. He made her one both with himself and with the Father. Praying for his bride, the Son said to the Father: *I want them to be one with us, even as you and I are one.*

And so the bridegroom is one with the Father and one with the bride. Whatever he found in his bride alien to her own nature he took from her and nailed to his cross when he bore her sins and destroyed them on the tree. He received from her and clothed himself in what was hers by nature and gave her what belonged to him as God. He destroyed what was diabolical, took to himself what was human, and conferred on her what was divine. So all that belonged to the bride was shared in by the bridegroom, and he who had done no wrong and on whose lips was found no deceit could say: *Have pity on me, Lord, for I am weak.* Thus, sharing as he did in the bride's weakness, the bridegroom made his own her cries of distress, and gave his bride all that was his. Therefore, she too has the prerogative of receiving the confession of sin and the power to forgive sin, which is the reason for the command: *Go, show yourself to the priest.*

The Church is incapable of forgiving any sin without Christ, and Christ is unwilling to forgive any sin without the Church. The Church cannot forgive the sin of one who has not repented, who has not been touched by Christ; Christ will not forgive the sin of one who despises the Church. What God has joined together, man must not separate. *This is a great mystery, but I understand it as referring to Christ and the Church.*

Do not destroy the whole Christ by separating head from body, for Christ is not complete without the Church, nor is the Church complete without Christ. The whole and complete Christ is head and body. This is why he said: *No man has ever ascended into heaven except the Son of Man whose home is in heaven.* He is the only man who can forgive sin.

(Sermo 11: PL 194, 1728-1729)

**CATHOLIC NON-NEGOTIABLES – INTRINSIC EVILS** - As far as the Catholic Church is concerned, its principal focus in the public arena is the protection and promotion of the dignity of the person, and she is thereby consciously drawing particular attention to principles which are not negotiable. Among these the following emerge clearly today: *(a) protection of life in all its stages, from the first moment of conception until natural death; (b) recognition and promotion of the natural structure of the family as a union between a man and a woman based on marriage, and its defense from attempts to make it juridically equivalent to radically different forms of union which in reality harm it and contribute to its destabilization, obscuring its particular character and its irreplaceable social role; (c) the protection of the right of parents to educate their children.* (Pope Benedict XVI, Address to European Parliamentary Group, 30 March 2006)